

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TANANA 01081 090655Z

15

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 H-03 L-03 RSR-01 RSC-01 SCA-01

/018 W

----- 042285

R 090500Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 1081

E. O. 11652: DECON 7AUG74

TAGS: CASC, MA, US

SUBJ: W/W GEORGE REPPAS

REF: A) TANANARIVE 1057; B) STATE 153262

FOR: SCS

1. CONSOFF VISITED REPPAS 07AUG. REPPAS CONFIRMED (REFTEL A) THAT HEARINGS BEFORE JUGE D'INSTRUCTION (EXAMINING MAGISTRATE) HAD RESUMED. THESE SESSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE AUG 1,3,4,6 &7. REPPAS APPEARED PLEASED WITH THEIR PROGRESS AND TOLD CONSOFF THAT JUGE D'INSTRUCTION WAS "TAKING STUFF SERIOUSLY AND APPEARS FAIR"; HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY CALIBER OF TRANSLATOR PROVIDED BY GOMR. REPPAS' ONLY COMPLAINT WAS THAT PROCEDURE WAS UNNECESSARILY TEDIOUS, WITH MANY QUESTIONS REPEATED THREE OR FOUR TIMES. HE COULD NOT RPT NOT ESTIMATE HOW LONG SUCH EXAMINING HEARINGS WOULD LAST. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FEAR THAT JUGE D'INSTRUCTION, ALTHOUGH ATTENTIVE, MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND COMPLEXITY OF AGM ACCOUNTING.

2. CONSOFF ASKED REPPAS WHY LAWYER RAVONY NOT PRESENT AT HEARINGS. REPPAS REPLIED THAT RAVONY ALSO NOT ABLE TO DECIPHER AGM ACCOUNTS AND THAT HE FELT MORE CONFIDENT EXPLAINING ACCOUNTS TO JUGE D'INSTRUCTION HIMSELF. CONTINUING, REPPAS TOLD CONSOFF THAT HE WAS TIRED OF RAVONY'S DELAYING TACTICS, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING LAWYERS. JUGE D'INSTRUCTION'S WILL-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TANANA 01081 090655Z

INGNESS TO LISTEN TO HIS ARGUMENTS AND CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT

WERE GIVEN AS REASONS FOR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RAVONY. IN RESPONSE TO CONSOFF DIRECT QUESTION WHETHER HE WANTS TRIAL, REPPAS REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY.

3. MOFA DIRECTOR OF STUDIES RAKOTONDRAMASY TELEPHONED DCM AUG 7 IN REPLY INQUIRY (REFTEL CONCERNING STATUS OF TRIAL. MINISTRY HAD CONTACTED PROCUREUR GENERAL, HE SAID, ABOUT TIMING OF TRIAL AND LATTER REPORTED TRIAL NOT RPT NOT READY TO TAKE PLACE SINCE REPPAS CONSTANTLY APPEALING FOR PROVISIONAL RELEASE. AS DEPT AWARE, GOMR CONSIDERS SUCH APPEALS TO BE "DILATORY MANEUVERS". EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT RAVONY TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHEN LAST APPEAL FOR PROVISIONAL RELEASE ENTERED AND WHEN REJECTED BY APPEALS COURT.

4. RAKOTONDRAMASY ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THAT UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES TRIAL ITSELF COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL END OF YEAR BECAUSE CASE SO COMPLICATED THAT INVESTIGATORY PHASE BY JUGE D'INSTRUCTION WOULD LAST UNTIL THEN. HEARINGS WHICH REPPAS ATTENDING (PARA 1) CONCERN AGM ACCOUNTING ONLY, HE SAID, LEAVING IMPRESSION THAT INVESTIGATION ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES BY REPPAS WOULD OF NECESSITY HAVE TO AWAIT END OF THIS PHASE.

5. COMMENTS: EMBASSY ATTEMPTING DETERMINE THROUGH RAVONY WHETHER THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN RENEWED APPEAL FOR REPPAS' PROVISIONAL RELEASE SINCE FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE OF JULY 4 TRNASMITTED TO EMBASSY. DIFFICULT TO SQUARE WITH THIS NOTE RAKOTONDRAMASY INDICATION THAT TRIAL WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL END OF YEAR. EMBASSY INCLINED SEEK FURTHER CLARRIFICATION FROM MOFA, BUT PREFERS FIRST TO ASK REPPAS AGAIN WHETHER HE REALLY WANTS US TO PUSH FOR TRIAL. SINCE HE HAS IN PAST BEEN ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS QUESTION, WE WANT BE SURE OF HIS POSITION BEFORE PROCEEDING.

6. FYI: RE PARA 2, REFTEL B, EMBASSY HAS NOT INFORMED REPPAS OR RAVONY ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF INTERESTED PARTY TELEGRAM DEVISE FOR THIS USE. UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IT MAY PROVE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE RESORT TO THIS DEVISE BE WE THINK WE SHOULD AVOID VOLUNTEERING ITS EXISTENCE (A) BECAUSE OF CONCERN OVER ITS POSSIBLE ABUSE BY REPPAS WHO, IN VIEW OF PAST EXPERIENCE, WOULD NOT BE ABOVE CHARACTERIZING AS OFFICIAL THOSE MESSAGES HE SENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TANANA 01081 090655Z

THIS CHANNEL, AND THUS EMBARRASSING USG, AND (B) BECAUSE ANY MESSAGE SENT THIS CHANNEL WOULD, UNLESS PASSED BY REPPAS TO US THROUGH PRISON GUARDS, CONTRAVENE MALAGASY REGULATIONS. END FYI.

MENDENHALL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TANANA01081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730847/aaaabidc.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) TANANARIVE 1057; B) STATE 153262
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W GEORGE REPPAS
TAGS: CASC, MA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005